

UKI NEWS

An initiative of the Uki and Districts Residents' Association (UKIRA)

Proudly Sponsored by the Uki Pharmacy

Issue 38 December 2007/January 2008

'The best read on the Tweed!'



Photo by Barry Longland

Last year Santa attended the Community Christmas Party—and brought treats! Have you been good this year?

Uki Community Xmas Party by Barry Longland

Saturday, December 15 is the day for this year's annual community celebration of the Xmas holiday season in Uki. **Festivities will commence at 6pm** and everyone is invited. There will be the usual attraction of live music from our local artists going through till 9pm. Our mystery Santa will again be borne into the village aboard the Uki Rural Fire Service truck at 7pm dispensing treats for the children. Also, Wendy Grace will be leading the Xmas community carols seg-

ment featuring the children of Uki.

Residents can bring a rug and chairs with their food and drinks or, alternatively, food will be available from 'Mr Hot and Spicy' and 'Pizza Loco', both well known providers from the monthly Uki Market. This is a great opportunity to catch up with each other before the holidays so mark your diaries for an evening of family fun in the park.

(Wet weather alternative venue is the Uki Hall)

Uki's Catholic and Anglican Communities invite everyone to a family celebration of

The Christmas Story in Word and Song

At the Catholic Church on Convent Rd (south of the hotel)

On Sunday December 23rd at 6.30pm

Children can dress as Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men or Kings. Candles are provided, but you could bring a plate of food to share.

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Uki Church Services

Mass at St Columba's Catholic Church 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 10am.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Morning Prayer 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays all at 9am.

UKIRA Report

by Barry Longland, President UKIRA

At the November meeting of the Association, UKIRA completed its membership of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation. The decision to join was a response to requests from village residents that action be taken to address the anti-social behaviour in the streets of Uki in recent times. Around 20 residents from the village came to lend support and express their fears about the current state of lawlessness in the village centre.

The meeting was addressed by the regional co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch as well as a representative from the Tweed/Byron Police command. Residents gave disturbing accounts of the frequent incidences of drunken rampaging through the village at night with the consequent damage to public prop-

erty as well as the extremely dangerous use of motor vehicles around our streets. It was clear that some in the community are afraid and feeling besieged by a relatively small group of offenders. The infrequent presence of police patrols in our area seems to embolden this group to take control of the streets in such a frightening way. It is clearly a feeling of powerlessness to confront these individuals in a rational way that has led the community to seek the support of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation in helping to deal with this threat.

The objective of our membership is to create a sense of solidarity and support within the community when it comes to reporting this behaviour as well as the sharing of information about the perpetrators.

Neighbourhood Watch promises to provide a closer and more direct link with the police service that will hopefully assist residents to get a more effective response from them when the need arises. Over time, this co-operation should strengthen the ability of the community to restore peace and balance in the village.

Future editions of the Uki News will include updates of Neighbourhood Watch activity. Comments/reports/suggestions can be sent via email to ukineighbourhoodwatch@yahoo.com.au or provided at the regular monthly meetings of UKIRA. Also, readers are encouraged to write to the Uki News (PO Box 141, Uki) with their ideas about the appropriate community response to this problem.

Editorial

With this issue we say thank you and farewell to departing major sponsors Angela and Alex Georgopoulos of the Mt Warning Hotel. They have supported the Uki News since Issue 18—a fabulous effort which was much appreciated.

We welcome a new patron, pharmacist Elissa Mackenzie, who, together with her partner Chris Wood, has undertaken to sponsor the Uki News. Thanks to Elissa and Chris it remains financially viable.

Our advertisers are also essential to the continued publication of the

Uki News. I hope readers will continue to support them in return. If you need to contact me about your ad, please use the email address below, or post a note to me c/- Post Office, Uki. Jeanette deals with your payments only, so other matters should be sent to me direct.

I wish all of our supporters and readers a happy and healthy festive season, and a prosperous New Year. **Deadline for Issue 39 is 21 January—please don't lose sight of it in the Festive madness to come!**

Anita Morton

UKIRA is the Uki village and Districts Residents' Association Incorporated, a not-for-profit community organisation that provides a forum for residents to discuss and act upon local issues. You can contact President Barry Longland on 6679 5220.

UKIRA MEETINGS are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Uki Hall at 7pm. Please come along to our next meetings on the 1st of January and 5th of February next year.

Disclaimer

The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are the contributor's own. They are not necessarily those of the Uki News nor of UKIRA.

Who to contact

See the editor (Anita) in person at the Uki Hall market, every Saturday between 8am and 1pm, if you would like to discuss any Uki News business, or email uki_news@hotmail.com.

Advertisers: All payments must be made to Jeanette Simpson – she will invoice all advertisers directly. Sorry, I can't accept your payment in person. Cheques or money orders to Jeanette only.

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Full page - \$175

Sponsorship Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alex and Angela from the Mt Warning Hotel for their support as the major sponsor of the Uki News over past years. As readers will have heard, the Hotel has been sold so this sponsorship arrangement has now ended.

I am pleased to report that the role of major sponsor has now been taken up by the Uki Pharmacy, with support from Chris Wood, our Uki dentist. It is very gratifying that Elissa and Chris, along with our other local businesses are so supportive of the Uki News. Without that support it would be impossible to continue with our local paper.

Barry Longland

Village voices

Peter and Lyn at the Post Office would like to remind everyone to pick up their mail regularly—with Christmas nearly upon us, the number of parcels is enormous, and they just don't have the space to store them for long.

Social Tennis

7:00 PM Monday nights at Uki

Sportsground, all welcome.

Call David 6679 5019

Thank you from Jean and Ida

Thank you to all our loyal customers for your support at the market over the years. Unfortunately, due

to a combination of circumstances, including the break-in at the Hall on the 9th of November when the Hall was damaged and goods stolen, we cannot continue at the market. We are not willing to risk further damage to the Hall.

Once again, a sincere Thank You. Keep well and best wishes from Ida and Jean.

Needed, someone who is able to lay carpet tiles for the Uki CTC. Please contact Lyn at the CTC or phone 6679 5399 Mon or Friday. We would appreciate some help. With thanks.

Term 4 Busy as Ever!

Year 3 and Year 5 students at Uki Public School have performed extremely well in the 2007 Basic Skills tests. The school's overall results in Year 3 numeracy and literacy were strong with an excellent result in the reading part of the test. The most pleasing aspect of the Year 5 result was the outstanding growth by the students who had completed both the Year 3 and Year 5 Basic Skills at Uki P.S. — the school's growth results being significantly above the state average in all areas of literacy and almost twice the state average in numeracy. The school will continue with its successful support teacher program in 2008 to assist students in fully developing their literacy and numeracy skills.

Production of the school's Yearbook MOLANG is well underway. The magazine gives readers an overview of some of the highlights of the school year as well as publishing at least one piece of writing from each student. The Yearbook has lots of photos and drawings, plus a colour centrefold! Copies can be ordered through the school office for only



Parent Damian Burke working with the Bonsai Club group

\$10 but numbers are limited.

The second round of the school's CLUBS program commenced on the first Thursday in November with children being given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of fun activities provided by parents, community members and staff. Sixteen different activities have been offered to the students ranging from making a bonsai garden and candle making to circus skills and balloon art. The CLUBS program runs for four weeks and provides an opportunity for parents and community members to

Uki Public School

work with the students and share their skills and interests with the younger members of our community.

Our recent Kindergarten Orientation program was a huge success with seventeen children attending and familiarizing themselves with the layout of the school, working with next year's teacher Mrs Ray and meeting their Year 6 buddies who will support them throughout their first year of school. They also had an opportunity to work with visual arts teacher Jenny Porter and music teacher Vikki Armour creating some colourful artwork and learning some new rhymes and songs. Each child received a special enrolment kit that had a variety of goodies inside as well as some important information and forms for parents. Another highlight was the personalised orientation book which had a photo of each student on the cover. Anyone interested in enrolling their children at the school in 2008 should contact the school office (6679 5128) to organise an appointment and walk around the school with Principal Garry Brabham.

Computers and their Warranties

by Robert Harrell

Being in the computer fixing game I am always horrified by the way computer hardware tends to die after its so-called one year warranty period. Many computers purchased from retailers usually arrive with a standard one year warranty. The known brands, Dell, Compaq, etc. you know who they are, give the standard one year, with some brands you can pay extra to receive an extra 3 years - what a great idea! But it is strange that many of the components usually have a manufacturer's warranty which is in fact a lot longer BUT you cannot access this through your one year warranty.

Most quality motherboards have three years; CPUs have three years, quality RAM has lifetime, quality hard drives have a whopping five years. These are the reasons to have a computer built to your requirements. For no extra cost, you have these long warranties. I wonder why the retailers do not offer these warranties, is it because their components are not up to it? Well they certainly use the same CPUs but the rest of the components are dubious.

The old saying, 'You get what you pay for' does not necessarily apply here; I think you get what you know... If you know nothing, then

you get nothing. Always ask about the warranties as applied to the components; new motherboards, hard drives and memory are not cheap to replace. Standard power boxes usually give one year due to the high percent of failures, (due to a dirty power supply), quality power boxes give three to five years, quality DVD burners give two years, and monitors give three years.

So next time you are thinking of purchasing a new computer, ask yourself 'Are warranties important to me?'

OOSH after school hours care 3 to 6pm Monday to Friday Phone 6679 5128

Red Cross Report

With Joy Armour

The annual Red Cross Christmas Appeal will be held this Friday, 7th of December, in the Uki Hall. Goods will be on sale from 9am, and we'll be serving lunch from 12.00 to 1.30pm. Plenty of bargains for everyone, and all money raised supports the work of the Red Cross.

If you have any saleable goods that you would like to donate,



please bring them to the Hall on the day. If that isn't possible, you can leave them with me (next to the old Butter Factory).

Donations of cakes, jams, produce etc are also very welcome, as are cash donations.

Phone me for further information on 6679 5297.

Dogs' delight

Sweetnam Park is once again a dog-friendly, off-leash park. UKIRA had many complaints about the sign Council recently put up about keeping dogs on leashes. Council has now replaced the offending sign with one that simply requests that dog owners do the right thing and take their pooch's poo home with them.



Please don't give people a reason to despise me! Pick up my poo—or risk a fine of \$220.

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Obscene Acts at Christmas!

by John Tyman

Sensitive souls, who struggle to come to terms with the billions of dollars wagered on the Melbourne Cup, grow sick at heart as Christmas approaches!

A season which should commemorate God's gift of a Son who would redeem the world - showing us how to live simply, lovingly, compassionately, selflessly - has been turned into an orgy of indulgence and extravagance. We overeat and also waste time wracking our brains thinking of gifts for people who already have everything they need - investing billions of dollars (far more than was expended on the Melbourne Cup) in presents which often end up at the dump! Meanwhile, elsewhere, millions starve, have no roof over their heads, no clean water, and little chance of living past 40.

But this need not be so. We can

celebrate as families around the table, eat and drink amounts that will satisfy our bodily needs, give presents to one another, and **still** do something to change the lives of those less fortunate. Using TEAR Australia's 'World's Most Useful Gift Catalogue' you can buy a mosquito net for a family in Burma for \$10 or a fuel efficient stove for a family in Kenya for \$15. For \$50 you can provide a family in Afghanistan with a goat, and \$70 will pay for a toilet in Nepal. You receive in return cards you can send to your friends explaining what you have done on their behalf. This way you will be spared both indigestion and the curse of gifts that must soon be thrown away.

OXFAM have a similar scheme - 'Oxfam Unwrapped' - expressed in more colourful language. For example, for \$15 you can deliver a

load of manure to a farmer in Sri Lanka ... a 'crappy gift' for the same price as a 'crappy pair of socks.' And for those, like me, who still like to give tokens to family members, OXFAM also have a Fair Trade Gift Catalogue.

TEAR can be contacted on 1800 244 986 and OXFAM on 1800 088 110. I have also left a supply of all three catalogues at the Buttery CTC. Any problems phone me on 6679-5257.

I wish you a happy and healthy Christmas.

John Tyman, Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

(Editor's note: CARE Australia also has an excellent gift programme to help people struggling for life's basic necessities. Contact them on 1800 020 046, or www.caregifts.org.au)

DON'T MISS THE LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET in Uki Hall every SATURDAY from 8am to 12.30pm.

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wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season

Greetings from the garden club

I can't remember when I last saw the Tweed Valley looking so green. Spring 2007 has been the best season for years in terms of rain and mild weather, and by golly the plants are responding. For once, all the Club's members are boasting about how good their gardens are looking. December/January isn't normally a good time to plant, but if this keeps up, we gardeners will feel we have been given two bonus months to our calendars.

The mission statement of Uki Garden club is to foster friendships through gardening and to exchange knowledge and advice about plants and gardens. It meets on the last Saturday of each month at a different member's garden each time. Some gardens are well-established, while others have barely started, so there's always something interesting to look at

and talk about.

The current concern about global warming has made many of us think about what we can do to help. One strategy is to grow some fruit and vegetables in our back yards, so as well as the regular monthly Saturday meetings the Club also runs the Food Group on the second Tuesday of each month. Activities in this group are similar to that of the main Garden Club, but focus entirely on growing and using food. Wherever possible this group encourages its members to use organic and Permaculture principles centred around composting, worm farming, lunar planting, companioning and natural pest control. Members have a wealth of experience in growing the best varieties for the Tweed and

often share yummy produce and recipes with each other.

Come and join us! We are a happy group of people from all backgrounds and ages, brought together by the love of gardening. Membership is \$20/\$25 which includes the whole family.

For more information contact Jenny Wein on 02 6672 3054 for information on the Garden Club, and Kevin Munsie on 02 6672 7691 regarding the Food Group.

The Macfile

I was at a friend's place in Brisbane recently and as we talked about our drink preferences his wife offered 'I only drink drinks I can see through' - there are a few options!

I had a Mac moment at the last Uki market too. A round man passed me with a T shirt that said 'I love animals. They're delicious' (Vegetarians, please don't phone to complain! Ed.)

I was recently out in Alice Springs doing some work and this road sign cracked me up. It was at the drop-off zone for 'Our Lady of the Sacred Heart' primary school. The sign simply said 'Kiss and Go Zone'!!

A couple more new words from the 'Voyeur' magazine on my most recent Virgin flight: 'Tryvertising' is a form of marketing in which consumers can use products for free for a period of time and 'Manscaping' is the trimming or shaving of a man's body hair for a cosmetic reasons.

Well folks, I hope you have enjoyed my skewed observations from life, because this is my last column as I vacate Uki and head south [after lighting up the bush as Pip observed!]. The Macfile has given me a wonderful reason to record the things that make me chuckle, and I hope you have had a laugh as well.

I close with one last gem to empty my folder: 'Gaffer tape is like The Force. It has a light side and a dark side and it holds the world together.' Thanks for having me.

(Thank you, Dave, for sharing your observations of the ludicrous with us. Best of luck to you and Kerry in Victoria. Ed.)

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Kaye's Kitchen

By Kaye Wilson



CHRISTMAS HONEY-PEPPERED NUTS

- ½ cup honey
- 3 tblspn ground black pepper
- 3 tspn salt
- 1 tspn ground allspice
- 6 cups unsalted mixed nuts (eg pecan, almond, cashew, macadamia)
- 2 tblspn sugar

Preheat the oven to 180° C. Line an oven tray with baking paper. Put honey, pepper, salt and allspice in a large bowl and mix. Add nuts and stir until evenly coated. Spread nuts in a single layer on the prepared tray and sprinkle with sugar. Bake 15 minutes, stir with a fork and cook for a further 8-10 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly. Separate the nuts with a fork, working quickly. Store in an airtight jar as soon as the nuts are cool.

Fancy jars of these nuts make nice Christmas gifts!

Traffic Matters

Regular *Uki News* readers might have been wondering if the long-awaited repairs to Mitchell Street were ever going to start.

At last, the men are moving in. Ian Kite, Council's Works Manager, was in Uki a couple of weeks ago to explain what will happen.

Mainly, this will be curbing and guttering of some sections of the road, and re-surfacing. There will be some retaining walls constructed, but that's about it. The radical improvement that we were hoping for will not happen.

Ian Kite hopes that the work will be finished before Christmas, but delays in getting access to bitumen trucks, plus the usual weather delays we can expect at this time of year, mean that it may not be finished until early next year.



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Let's We Singsal

RSL Report

By Ray Blisset

Hon. Secretary Uki RSL Sub-Branch

The Sub-Branch held a Remembrance Day ceremony on Sunday 11th of November at the Uki War Memorial. The service was conducted by the Rev. John Tynan, assisted by Vice President Peter Ridgeway and the Secretary. The Uki PS Headmaster (Garry Brabham), the Sub-Branch members and their families also attended. Our President, John Smith, is in Western Australia attending a reunion.

The light illuminating the War Memorial has been changed by Council to a lower wattage. We hope this will eliminate problems for people driving past the Memorial at night.

Our Christmas BBQ will be held at the Secretary's residence on Sunday 9th of December.

I would like to wish all our readers a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Christmas tends to be a period of over-indulgence and under-nourishment. We work hard, play hard and stress *lots*, all of which can lead to a 'burnt out' system, susceptible immunity and an emotional roller coaster that can get pretty wild! Some useful tips for surviving and thriving during the festive season include:

- **Water** - Much of the body's ability to function well and adapt during times of high demand/stress, relies on water, so keeping the body adequately hydrated is essential. Apart from the usual day-to-day water needs, (approx 1½ litres), it is important to realise that alcohol dehydrates the body, so for every alcoholic drink consumed, it needs to be matched by a glass of water – many of the symptoms associated with having a hangover, are in fact related to dehydration.
- **Nutrients** - It is also important to realise that alcohol leads to the

loss of many of the water-soluble nutrients, which also contributes to the hangover sensation you might feel the next morning. Magnesium and B vitamins usually go first. Good fresh whole food is essential, and, taking a good multi-vitamin the night before and the morning after will definitely help.

- **Add some fruit** - Try adding some lemon to your water, especially first thing in the morning - the bitterness and the slight acidity will help to support digestion of the excess food that you have consumed! Pineapple and papaya are high in enzymes that support digestion. Serve them as after meal fruits to try and break down the excess. If your tummy is really protesting, have a tablespoon of apple-cider vinegar in water just before your major meals.
- **Liver Support** - Be particularly kind to this hard working organ – fresh vegetable juices, especially containing beetroot and lots of

parsley, a hot lemon drink first thing in the morning, a dandelion coffee or tea every day, and if more support is needed, the herb St Mary's Thistle, and the homeopathic remedy Nux Vomica – can both be wonderful liver tonics – discuss the best option with a health professional.

Rescue Remedy – And when all else fails, and the festive season is becoming just *too* much, a few doses of Rescue Remedy will generally settle the nerves, reduce the level of overwhelm, and support the ability to relax and enjoy what is really important.

Wishing you all a safe and happy festive season.

Judith is now available for consultations on Saturday mornings from 8.30am to 1pm at the Uki Pharmacy—see details in the Pharmacy ad opposite.



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Fire Brigade news

Fire Permits are still required even though we have had good rain in the area. No Fire Permits will be issued for the period covering Saturday 22nd December to Friday 4th January, 2008.

The Brigade was fortunate to recently receive a grant from the Combined Clubs of NSW. The assistance from their Development and Community Support Expenditure Scheme has helped us to finalise some of the improvements in and around the Kunghur Fire Shed. Many thanks to the Combined Clubs of NSW.

Several members of the community have come along to our training days to familiarise themselves with the equipment on the trucks in readiness for the next Basic Firefighter Training assessment. The next training day is Sunday 13th January, at the Fire Shed, starting at 9.00 a.m.

Any enquiries, phone 6679 9121, or Fire Control in Murwillumbah on 6672 7888.

Ron Duckworth. Captain



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Hi, in beautiful Uki and surrounding hills and dales, welcome to your summer reading. The most significant transit in December is the entry of Jupiter in Capricorn, on the 19th, bringing to the fore the most enterprising, constructive and inspired side of this Earthy Sign.

Jupiter will bring to all Capricorns many opportunities they should do better not miss. The glass is truly half full, rather than half empty for you this year, pessimistic goats! You could fill it to the brim by trusting that the universe is on your side, for a change. You will be able to visualize future developments and put your practical nose to good use, grasping more of the big picture than usual. No time for

excessive caution and lengthy pondering. In the months of December and January Capricorns born Dec.21-Jan.2 will be the first to harvest Jupiter's bounty. Also some Taureans (Apr.19-May2), Virgo (Aug.23-Sep.4), Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.4) and Pisces (Feb.18-Mar.2) will feel more optimistic and could trust in their lucky stars under Jupiter's friendly rays.

Another cosmic event will again bring Capricorn to the fore on January 26: Pluto also entering this Sign, an epoch making transit, occurring only once during a cycle of 248 years, and lasting until 2024, slowly but surely transforming, in dramatic ways, the world's political and social landscapes (Capricorn), especially stressing a

novel approach to the exploitation of our Earth's precious resources (Pluto).

Emotionally charged and life changing experiences are possible, early in 2008 and beyond for Capricorn, Cancer, Aries and Libra born early in their Signs (December 22/23, June 21/22, March 21/22 and September 23/24). The reward of this intense transit will be a deeper understanding of one's own shadow side and a more honest and deeper approach to life and relationships.

Happy festive season, everyone.
paolaemmastrologia@gmail.com

Do you have an event coming up, a special achievement, a worthy cause, or a particular interest? Share it with your community by contributing to the Uki News! Email contributions to uki_news@hotmail.com, or post them to us c/- Post Office, Uki.

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Birdwatching

by Doug Davidson

Mistletoe Bird (*Dicaeum hirundina-ceum*)

This bird can be difficult to observe because it is small (9.5cm to 11cm), quick-moving and often high up in foliage. The mistletoe bird is nomadic in most parts of its range – it follows the fruiting of various species of mistletoe. It also eats nectar and pollen, insects, and berries and fruits from both native and introduced plants.

Mistletoe birds are solitary except when they pair up in the breeding season. The bird flies with swift darting movements on its longish, pointed wings. It goes from one clump of mistletoe to another, restlessly switches this way and that,

and excretes the sticky mistletoe seeds on branches – potentially starting a new mistletoe plant.

Male: upper parts glossy blue-black; throat, breast and under-tail coverts scarlet. Under parts grey-white with a black mark down the centre. The bill is black and sharp.

Female: under parts light grey, striped and patched with darker grey, under-tail coverts pale red. Upper parts darker grey and tail black. The beak is dark grey.

Immature: like female, but beak and gape are pale orange.

Voice: loud and spirited. The call is a sharp squeaky tiech, ti-witch – tee-tieech-tieewietch. Also a loud, sharp, rollicking kinzee-kinzee, perwita perwita-perwita-perwita.

Habitat: Australia, wherever mistletoe occurs. Dense wet forests of coastal ranges, mangroves,



mulga woodland, mallee and semi-arid spinifex country.

Nest: the suspended nest is tiny, neat, soft and pear-shaped, with a smoothly rounded bottom. It is made of plant down bound with spiders' webs to create soft, felt-like walls. The nest is well-hidden in the outer foliage of a tree or shrub. Eggs: white, two or three. 17mm x 11mm.

Enjoy your bird watching.

Uki Hall Schedule

Monday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am
Tuesday	Cards 9.30 am Middle-eastern dance 9.00 to 11.00am
Wednesday	Yoga 8.30 to 10.00 am Kids Creative Dance 10.15 to 11.45 am
Thursday	Circle Dance 10.00am to 12.00 noon Yoga 5.30 to 7.00 pm Indoor bowls 7.30 pm
Friday	Yoga (with Naomi) 8.00 to 9.45 am Vocal Expression 10.30 am to 12.30pm G'l'o Dance one a month, 3rd or 4th Friday night
Saturday	Produce and craft market 8.00 am to 12.30 pm Hap Ki Do 2.00pm to 4.00pm

The Residents Association meets at the Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm

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CRAG Update

In the recently re-advertised Nightcap Township DA, sewer overflow from the proposed township will run directly into the Tweed River during periods of high rainfall: the source of drinking water for Uki, Murwillumbah and many other towns. The very high tech sewer technology requires high maintenance. Tweed Shire Council has proposed to own and maintain the sewer infrastructure. If not maintained at a high level then chlorine clouds can be released into the environment and are fatal to people and animals. Stand alone sewer systems such as this one, are not economical and residents should be concerned that the spiralling costs for the ongoing main-

tenance of the sewer infrastructure will be passed onto ratepayers.

130 three storey units are still in the DA, and the Developer has requested a change to the minimum block size, as specified in the LEP, to as small as 200m², to maximise the amount of units on the site. If the change proceeds, then this will impact on Uki and all our small village environs with pressure to build higher density with smaller blocks. Parallel to the site, and directly along Kyogle Rd, the Developer has plans for a Car Park for 69 cars and 3 buses. Being totally visible from Kyogle Rd, one of our tourist World Heritage routes, the car park will become a magnet for

unsavoury behaviour. Lighting the car park will destroy any night time landscape forever.

Submissions for the re-advertised DA closed on 21st November 2007. **We urge residents to continue to voice their opposition to this proposed township to Council by writing letters.** Letters can be downloaded from the CRAG website www.crag.asn.au. CRAG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those community members who voiced their concerns about the issues we have raised. We wish everyone well for the festive season and 2008.

Historical Society news

News about the Tweed River Regional Museum. The committee set up to establish a Foundation for the Museum is making good progress. They expect to launch the Foundation early next year. Preliminary architect plans for the two sites will be examined by the advisory committee in December. The office will be closed for a fortnight over the Christmas period. The society's committee will be in recess until the first meeting of 2008, Saturday 9th February, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

The following is an extract from 'The Way it Was', which would make an excellent Christmas present. It is available from the Uki

Post Office and Stoker's Siding Pottery. The speaker is Olive Loxley-Lewis.

'There was the lovely native wisteria, that was in profusion along the creeks. Clematis, pittosporum trees with the little star-like flowers and dendrobium orchids, the pencil and the button orchid, they grew on the iron bark trees. There was a calanthe, a white lily-type orchid that used to come out about Christmas time. Mother used to pick them for Christmas. Tree ferns.

When Rex (Olive's brother) and I were taking the cows away after milking we'd see goannas climbing the tree fern and we'd head for home, we were frightened of goan-

nas There was one sycamore tree, it's a cousin of the flame tree, on our farm. It was there for a lot of years. Red, winey coloured bell, a sort of furry bell. I think Hunter Beale told us they used the sycamore bark to make hats and mats. Then there was the pencil cedar. I never saw a very big tree but they had such a pretty flower like a tossel, a very fine tossel and it was rainbow coloured with a very sweet perfume. The maiden hair fern grew along the creek too. We used to see patches of the flame tree up in the mountain above Midginbil and the white water of the waterfalls in a good season.'

The last sentence is true today.

by Helena Duckworth



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Mt Warning Community Preschool

Mt Warning Community Preschool is currently raising funds through the sale of tickets for a one hour hot air balloon ride and champagne breakfast with Byron Bay Ballooning. This prize for the preschool Christmas raffle was kindly donated by Thomas who owns and operates Byron Bay Ballooning (ph 6684 7880). Tickets are on sale for \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. If you would like to purchase some tickets then please call Kaye at preschool on 6679 5313. The raffle will be drawn at the preschool annual Christmas Party for families to be held on Monday 17th December from 6pm. Santa will be coming along too! So if you want to join us, bring a plate and have some fun!

Enrolments of children for 2008 are being taken now. The preschool provides a safe, loving environment where children are given time to explore, challenge their ideas, and extend their learning in a variety of curriculum areas with motivated and highly qualified early childhood staff. The preschool also hosts a playgroup session each week for children 0-2 years of age on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am. For details about enrolments and playgroup sessions call Kaye on 66797273.

The Staff and Parents take this opportunity to thank all of those local businesses and community members who have supported our fundraising activities during 2007. We wish everyone a safe and peaceful festive season and look forward to seeing you all in 2008.

Scary Underage Drinking

Recently, we've seen a lot of dangerous behaviour from young people in Uki. Maybe not all of them are 'our' teenagers, we still have a responsibility towards them. It seems that alcohol is one of the major problems—it was definitely involved in recent incidents that could have led to the deaths of four young people.

So if you're planning a party or celebration that will be attended by young people, you need to know the rules about underage drinking. Obtaining alcohol for, or supplying alcohol to a person under 18 attracts a fine of \$5,500 up to \$11,000 **and/or a twelve month prison term!** This applies to both adults and minors and refers to giving or getting alcohol for an under-eighteen in any circumstances—even a private party.

Minors can be fined \$1,100 for a range of offences, such as being on licensed premises without a responsible adult or drinking alcohol there, carrying alcohol away from licensed premises, playing poker machines on licensed premises etc. Fines go up to \$2,200 for offences relating to tampering with or forging Proof of Age cards. Adults who connive at any of these activities will be fined the same or double the amount.

So your party planning should include checking out the website www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/events_guide/alcohol.html Anita Morton

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Planning Eyesores

by Trish Mann

The proposed abandoning of height limits in Murwillumbah and other areas of Tweed would be a serious mistake.

The overriding of the coastal villages two storey height limit has already opened the door to a flood of development applications at Hastings Point; a village thought safe from over development because it sits on a highly sensitive wetland area suitable only for low impact development.

Residents of Hastings Point realise that just because a large infrastructure project can return a profit for a private investor does not mean it is in the public interest.

The true costs of development are hidden. These costs include pollution, excavation, site levelling, cut and fill development, land fill, changed watercourses, destruction

of natural open space and loss of solar access, transportation of building materials, and the public subsidies required to provide roads and service infrastructure.

The Hastings Point Progress Association have sought to stop the development of an 'aged care' resort in Hastings Point by inviting council to the Land and Environment Court. Council has decided not to contest in court and has left this poor planning decision to be fought by the developers.

If residents are successful it will encourage improved environmental outcomes and community consultation processes in Tweed Council's Planning Department.

Still on height limits, has anyone wondered why the gateway to the most beautiful part of the north coast with its magnificent view of our very own majestic Mount Warn-

ing is now flanked on the left by a misshapen 60 ft high McDonald logo at the Chinderah intersection of the Pacific Highway. Who decided that an American corporate logo has the right to erect such an eyesore!

If we apathetically accept this lowering of standards by that old cliché 'you can't stop progress' then we will lose our beautiful visual environment and uniquely uncluttered lifestyles.

Readers concerned about development in the Tweed Shire will have been interested to see that Noel Hodges, Director of Planning and Environment, is leaving. His tenure has not been without controversy—it will be interesting to see if attitudes to development change under a new Director.

UKI BAKERY At the Buttery

We are now open and offer you a delicious range of fresh bread, pies, small cakes and slices. We welcome your orders and would love to meet you. Call in and see Michelle, Ron and David for friendly service and wholesome country cooking.

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ART BEAT

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DECEMBER – 3 FEBRUARY

All welcome to attend opening celebrations at 6.30pm (DST) on Friday 14 December

Les Blakebrough: Ceramics - is an Object Gallery touring exhibition and is part of the *Living Treasures: Master of Australian Craft* series. With a career spanning 50 years, distinguished by a mastery of material and form, Blakebrough is one of Australia's most celebrated ceramic artists. Blakebrough's work ranges from functional ware to delicate forms of ethereal beauty, etched to emphasize the translucency and

fragility of the Southern Ice Porcelain he spent more than five years developing.

Imagining Papua New Guinea: prints from the national collection - is a National Gallery of Australia touring exhibition that celebrates Australia's nearest neighbour's rich history of printmaking in the 30 years since independence. The exhibition showcases thirty prints by five senior Papuan artists: Timothy Akis, Mathias Kauage, David Lasisi, John Man and Martin Morububuna.

The Beanie Festival - As iconic Australian headwear, the beanie has been celebrated by the Alice Springs Beanie Festival since 1996, attracting contributors from around Australia and overseas. This is a colourful exhibition that will inspire visitors to laugh, knit, and don crazy headwear.

Pearls of Wisdom - Using pastels and charcoal on paper, local artist Katka Adams explores proverbs by reinventing them as visual fables.

Looking for that special gift for an art-loving special person? Take them to visit The Third Model exhibition at the Escape Gallery in Brisbane St, Murwillumbah. The exhibition is open daily from 10am to 4pm, and showcases many affordable works from Shirley Kennedy's life drawing group. Who knows—your special person might find the perfect piece for you to give him/her this Christmas!



CREATIVE WORKSHOPS AT THE GALLERY

Our 2007 workshop program for adults was a great success! After a short Christmas break new courses will commence from February next year. Children's school holiday workshops will be held in January 2008. Ring the Tweed River Art Gallery on 6670 2790 to register on our free workshop mail list or look out for details in our next newsletter, the Tweed Link, The Weekly or local newspapers.

Gallery 100

Sculptures by Brian Bertram



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A important part of a happy community life is consideration for other people. Unfortunately, not all people seem to get this – so we have to have laws. The regulations governing noise – including using power tools, music, cars revving, pumps etc are set to change from March 2008. Currently, we can summarise the rules as

- power tools must not be used between 8 pm and 8 am on Sundays and public holidays and between 8 pm and 7 am on other days;
- swimming pool and spa pumps must not be used between 8 pm and 8 am on Sundays and public holidays and between 8 pm and 7 am on other days;
- musical instruments must not be played between midnight and 8

am on any day;

- amplified sound equipment, including radios, televisions, tape recorders, record players, CD players or public address systems must not be used between midnight and 8 am on any day; and

- air conditioners must not be used between 10 pm and 8 am on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and between 10 pm and 7 am on other days.

This means that you can't use these items during these times if they are loud enough to be heard inside your neighbour's (or anyone else's) house. The penalty for offending against these rules is a fine of up to \$550.

There's also another category of 'offensive noise'. This is noise likely to interfere with another per-

son's reasonable expectations of comfort eg, being able to sleep, hear their own television etc. The penalty for offending against this, and failing to comply with a police direction to stop the noise, is \$3,300. Police also have the power to seize the offending noisy equipment and hold it for up to 28 days.

The new rules will probably be similar to the old ones, but will also restrict the use of amplified sound equipment further. Although the Regulations haven't been finalized yet, the NSW Government has said that people will be required to turn down amplified music from 10pm on any night. Anyone who has to get up early, or is trying to get a small child to sleep, will be delighted.

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market Sunday 15th of December

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UKI CTC AGM

5 February, 6pm, Uki Hall. All positions open to nominees. Get involved! Help the community. Phone or call in for a form.

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